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EXTRACT

FROM THE

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION

OF THE

INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

CONVENED AT

YORKVILLE, S. C.

AUGUST 4th, 1847.

COLUMBIA, S. C.

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## EXTRACT.

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YORKVILLE CHURCH, August 4th, 1847.

The twenty-fourth session of the General Convention of the Independent Presbyterian Church, met at Yorkville Church, as above, according to adjournment of previous session, and was opened by a sermon by Rev. R. Y. Russel, from Matthew 16: 18: "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Mr. Alexander Wallace, in the Chair, the Convention was constituted by prayer, and the delegates being called upon, handed in their commissions, and took their seats. The churches were represented as follows:

<i>Salem</i>	<i>Church,</i>	Wm. Mitchell.
<i>Yorkville</i>	"	} S. Melton,
		} T. H. Smith.
<i>Harmony</i>	"	} A. S. Wallace,
		} Dan'l. M'Elmoyle.
<i>Tabor</i>	"	_____
<i>Bethshiloh</i>	"	} D. D. M'Callum,
		} W. J. Bowen.
<i>Bullock's Creek</i>	"	Cornelius O'Daniel,
<i>Olney</i>	"	A. B. Cox.
<i>Olivet</i>	"	M'Connel Curry.
<i>Bethany</i>	"	S. Alexander,
<i>Hopewell</i>	"	_____
<i>Hephzibah</i>	"	Wm. Hager.
<i>Members Ex-Officio,</i>		} Rev. R. Y. Russel,
		} " Joseph O'Daniel,
		} " W. W. Carothers.

Convention then proceeded to the election of Moderator and Clerk. A. S. Wallace, was elected Moderator, and W. J. Bowen, Clerk.

The Minutes of the last Convention were then read, and handed over to the stated Clerk for record. On motion, Messrs. M'Callum, Cox, and Smith, were appointed to arrange the order of public worship, and report to-morrow morning, at 8 o'clock. On motion, Messrs. M'Callum, C. O'Daniel, D. M'Elmoyle, and R. Y. Russel,

were appointed a Committee of Overtures. Convention adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Thursday morning, 9 o'clock, Convention met according to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer;—a quorum present, the Minutes of yesterday were read, and the house proceeded to business. The Committee to arrange the order of public worship, reported as follows: Rev. W. W. Carothers, to preach on Thursday, at 10 o'clock, A. M.; Rev. J. O'Daniel, at 2 o'clock, P. M. Friday, Rev. W. W. Carothers, at 10 o'clock, A. M.; Rev. R. Y. Russel, at 2 o'clock, P. M. On Saturday, Rev. J. O'Daniel, at 10 o'clock, A. M.; R. Y. Russel, at 2 o'clock, P. M.; and on Sabbath, Rev. J. O'Daniel, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

A communication from the Rev. G. W. Davis, of Mississippi, was read, and ordered to be laid on the table, until to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock. The Librarian of the Clerical Library, was called upon to report, and reported as follows: "The whole number of volumes in the Library at the last General Convention, was - - - - - 77  
Added by recent purchase, - - - 27

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Whole number of volumes now be-

longing to to the Library, - - - 104 Of this number, there are  
now in the hands of Rev. G. W.

Davis, - - - - - 27

In the hands of Rev. J. O'Daniel, - - 12 vols.

" " Rev. W. W. Carothers, 3

" " Mr. Wm. G. Leckey, 4

" " Mr. A. B. Cox, - - 2—22, which taken from the

whole number, leaves 82 volumes,—all in good keeping,—S. Melton, Librarian. The Librarian, in charge of unsold books of Discipline, was called upon, and reported that there have been no copies sold since last Convention, and that 145 copies are still on hand."

Convention's Treasurer, reported that there are now in the Treasury \$7 45½: and that there is a claim against Convention for publishing the Minutes of last Convention, yet unsettled. The Committee appointed to expend the money on hand in the purchase of books for the enlargement of the Clerical Library, reported that since the last session they have procured twenty-seven volumes of select works on theology, cost \$30, leaving a balance of \$22 unexpended; the books have been placed in charge of the Librarian. Mr. John N. Whisenant, a delegate from Hopewell Church, appeared, handed up his commission, and took his seat. Also, Mr. A. F. Love, a delegate from Olivet Church, handed in his commission, and took his seat.

The Committee on Funds for Education, were called on, and through their Treasurer, made the following report:

"The Committee in charge of the funds raised for the assistance



of pious young men, in their preparatory course for the Ministry, respectfully submit in report as follows:

The funds entrusted to your Committee for the above purpose, amount to one hundred and forty-seven dollars and ten cents, and agreeable to order of Convention, stands on interest under sufficient securities. Your Committee further report, that since their disposal of the funds in the manner above, an application from a young man of respectable talents and undisputed piety, now prosecuting his collegiate course, has been made to them for aid, which, as the moneys are now employed, they were unable promptly to meet. Presuming, however, on the liberality of the Convention, they have given the applicant assurance, that the sum needed to enable him to graduate will be furnished, as his liabilities require—so that he need not pause in his progress from the lack of means, until he shall have completed his education; which, unless providentially prevented, will be in about two years from this time. Your Committee further ask leave to submit the following, viz: Contemplating the state of our affairs, as a Christian people, we are led deeply to feel the destitute condition of our church, as regards an efficient Gospel Ministry; and resting on the Divine favor for success, we are prompted to make an effort to bring into the service of the church, such a number of well-qualified men, as will meet the wants of the denomination, and as in the hand of God, may contribute greatly to strengthen us as a people, and render us happily coöperative with the sister churches of the land, in promoting the cause of Divine truth and godliness in the world. Believing that the office of the Gospel ministry, more than any other in which human energies seek for employment, claims of those who would enter upon its duties, the best literary and scientific attainments; and that without these, the ministry of any Christian church, however zealous, laborious, and pious, must of necessity, in the midst of the improvements of our age, fall reproachfully below that measure of holy honor and spiritual usefulness, which it was the design of the Great Head of the Church it should fill, and which it is the privilege of the church to enjoy. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That this General Convention, actuated by these views and opinions, earnestly recommend to the several churches and congregations in our connexion, speedy and energetic action to relieve our denomination from a destitution in ministerial strength, which at this moment checks her progress, and embarrasses all her interests. And further

*Resolved*, That to facilitate the accomplishment of the object intended, each church in our connexion is hereby requested to open a subscription as soon as practicable, for the purpose of procuring funds to aid poor young men, of known piety and talents, in acquiring an education preparatory to their entering into the Gospel Min-

istry; and that in the prosecution of this business, every church endeavor to obtain the services of one or more of its most energetic members, whose duty it shall be to procure subscriptions, to collect the moneys subscribed, and to forward the amount to the Treasurer of the Committee on Education, accompanied with his report to the next Convention, which collectors shall continue in office from year to year. And further

*Resolved*, That every Minister of the Gospel among us, shall bring this matter before each congregation under his care, and earnestly endeavor to impress upon the people the utility and importance of the enterprise, thereby opening the way for the raising of subscriptions. And further

*Resolved*, That as the people have a right to know how their donations are applied, the Standing Committee on Education, created some time ago by the General Convention, shall make an accurate report to the Convention annually, of the number of young men receiving aid from the funds of the church, whether as a donation or as a loan; of the amount furnished each applicant, and of the amount in the Treasury, and how employed; which report shall be published with the Minutes of Convention, for the satisfaction of all concerned. And lastly,

*Resolved*, That the subscription to be presented to the churches, for the purposes above, shall be headed in the following form, viz: Aware of the importance of learning to the well-being of society at large, and to the maintenance of soundness and purity in the Christian church in particular; and glad of the opportunity to aid and encourage with our patronage, the noble purposes of the pious and talented youth, who dedicates himself to God and the church, as a probationer for the Gospel Ministry, We, whose names are subscribed, do therefore agree to pay to Mr. ———, Agent of the General Convention in ——— congregation, the sums annexed to our names, respectively, to assist in creating a fund for the education of poor and pious young men for the Ministry, of which our subscriptions are in evidence."

The Report of the Committee was sustained, and the preamble and resolutions appended thereto, were unanimously adopted.

The churches were then called upon to report their votes on the alteration of the Constitution, as proposed by the last Convention, viz: that the sixth section and 20th chapter of our Constitution, be altered to read as follows: "The General Convention shall meet annually on the first Thursday in August, at whatever place they may adjourn to from year to year." The alteration was unanimously adopted by the churches.

The general report of the several churches was called for, and made as follows:

Salem Church, reported Rev. W. W. Carothers, Pastor: admis-

sion, none ; baptism, none ; excommunicated, none ; deaths, none ; church members, 30.

Yorkville, reported Rev. R. Y. Russel, Pastor ; admission, none ; dismissal, none ; suspension, none ; restoration, none ; deaths, none ; adults baptized, none ; infants baptized, 5 ; church members, 85.

Harmony Church, reported Rev. R. Y. Russell, Pastor ; admissions, 3 ; dismissions, none ; deaths, none ; suspensions, none ; adults baptized, 2 ; infants baptized, 8 ; removals, 8 ; church members, 82 ; Ruling Elders ordained, 2.

Tabor Church, no report.

Bethshiloh, reported R. Y. Russel, Pastor ; admissions, none ; dismissions, none ; suspensions, none ; adults baptized, none ; infants baptized, 11 ; church members, 121. Rev. G. W. Davies, their former pastor, emigrated to the West in October last.

Bullock's Creek, no report.

Olney, reported Rev. J. O'Daniel, Pastor ; admissions, 1 ; dismissions, 2 ; suspensions, none ; excommunications, none ; deaths, none ; adults baptized, 1 ; infants baptized, 4 ; church members, 90.

Olivet, reported admissions, 4 ; dismissions, none ; adults baptized, 2 ; infants baptized, 13 ; Elders ordained, 2 ; deaths, 2 ; suspensions, none ; restored, none ; excommunications, none ; church members, 57.

Bethany Church, reported R. Y. Russel, Pastor ; admissions, 3 ; adults baptized, 2 ; infants baptized, 3 ; suspensions, none ; excommunications, none ; deaths, 1 ; dismissions, 3 ; church members, 65.

Hopewell, reported Rev. W. W. Carothers, Pastor ; admissions, 2 ; dismissions, none ; adults baptized, 1 ; infants baptized, 4 ; deaths, none ; suspensions, none ; restorations, none ; excommunications, none, church members, 40.

Hephzibah, reported Rev. J. O'Daniel, Pastor ; admissions, 1 ; dismissions, none ; excommunicated, none ; deaths, 1 ; adults baptized, none ; infants baptized, 1 ; church members, 57.

The reports of the ex-officio Members, relative to their labors in the churches, were then called for, and having been heard, the Convention appointed Rev. Messrs. O'Daniel and Carothers, to make a general report on the state of religion in the churches, at 3 o'clock, P. M., on to-morrow.

Mr. A. F. Love, obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

A communication from the stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Chattahoochee, Georgia, addressed to the Moderator of Convention, was read, and on motion, handed to the Committee of Overtures, with instructions to report thereon to-morrow evening, at 3 o'clock.

On motion, the House adjourned until to-morrow morning, 8 o'clock.

FRIDAY MORNING, 8 o'clock.

Convention met according to adjournment, and was constituted by prayer. A quorum present, the Minutes of yesterday were read.

The Treasurer of the Missionary Fund being called upon, reported that the amount remaining in the Treasury, is \$18 69 $\frac{3}{4}$ . On motion,

*Resolved*, That the Missionary Fund remaining on hand, be paid over to the Treasurer of the Committee on Education. On motion,

*Resolved*, That from two to three hundred copies of an Extract from the Minutes of the present Convention be published, and that the Moderator appoint a Committee to attend to that business. Rev. R. Y. Russel, and Messrs. D. M'Callum, W. J. Bowen, and Dan'l. M'Elmoyle, were appointed accordingly to extract and publish the Minutes. On motion,

*Resolved*, That Rev. W. W. Carothers, preach the opening sermon at the next Convention.

Rev. W. W. Carothers, obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

At 3 o'clock, P. M., the Committee to make a general report on the state of Religion, were called on, and reported as follows, viz: "From the data furnished by the reports of the several churches and the ex-officio members, it appears that although the Gospel is regularly preached and the ordinances administered in our churches; and although we have cause of thankfulness that God has not left us without some token of his approbating presence, in comforting and building up his people in their most holy faith, and in some instances, in awakening amongst sinners an interested concern on the subject of religion, yet upon the whole, we have great reason to mourn on account of the sad declension of Zion, and to exclaim, 'Oh, that it were with us as in days past, when the candle of the Lord shone upon our heads.' Hence, we are most solemnly admonished from the sad state of coldness and apathy but too generally prevalent amongst us, to betake ourselves as a denomination and as individual churches, to greater diligence and activity in the discharge of the duties of religion, and especially to give a prayerful attention to the use of all those means by which God is wont to bless his Zion, and to revive his work in the hearts of his servants. 'Why stand ye here all the day idle,' ought to be the warning voice heard and felt by every one of us in our daily reflections and exercises of heart; until by the blessing of God, we as a people are enabled to arise and go forth, active and efficient laborers in the vineyard of our Lord and Master."

The report was approved. After a recess for sermon, Convention resumed business, and called on the Committee of Overtures, to report on the communication from Chattahoochee Presbytery, which



they did as follows, viz: "The Committee of Overtures, to whom the communication from Rev. Joseph M'Kee, appointed by the Chattahoochee Presbytery of Georgia, to correspond with the General Convention, has been committed for consideration, suggest in report, that a Committee be appointed by Convention to reply in courteous and friendly terms to said communication, and in their correspondence with Mr. M'Kee, to inquire into the special object contemplated by his Presbytery, in delegating him to correspond with the Convention. Submitted in behalf of Committee by their Chairman."

The report was sustained, and a Committee appointed to correspond with Mr. M'Kee. On motion,

*Resolved*, That Rev. J. O'Daniel reply to the communication of Rev. G. W. Davis, of Mississippi.

On motion of Mr. D. M'Callum, the following resolution was read and unanimously adopted, viz:

"*Resolved*, That any and every person drawing books from the Clerical Library, shall be required to return such book or books, as he may have drawn to the Librarian, before the annual meeting of each Convention, that the Librarian may be able to report accurately the condition of the books in his care; and further

*Resolved*, That the same book or books, shall not be drawn twice in succession by the same person, provided another individual wishes the use of such book or books at the time the application is made."

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Clerical Librarian be, and is hereby instructed to furnish each individual, having any of the books of the Library in his possession, with a copy of the Extracts of the Minutes of this Convention.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the citizens of this village, for their kind and hospitable demeanor towards us during the sessions of Convention.

On motion, Convention adjourned to meet at Olney Church, Gaston County, North Carolina, on the first Thursday in August, A. D. 1848.

A. S. WALLACE, Moderator.

W. J. BOWEN, Clerk.

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